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R 1680

The United States Senate

Report of Proceedings

Hearing held before

Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities

Friday, September 12, 1975

Washington, D.C.

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CONTENTS

- - -

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

- - -

Friday, September 12, 1975

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United States Senate,

Select Committee to Study Governmental

Operations With Respect to

Intelligence Activities,

Washington, D. C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 1:10 o'clock p.m. in Room 1127, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senator Huddleston presiding.

Present: Senator Huddleston (presiding).

Also present: Andrew Postal, David Bushong, Rhett Dawson, Gordon Rhea, Joseph diGenova, Professional Staff Members.

- - -

P R O C E E D I N G S

Senator Huddleston. Would you stand and raise your right hand, sir?

Do you swear the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Shimon. I do.

Mr. Bushong. You understand that the Committee Rules provide that you can have a Senator present throughout the interview. At any time that you want to stop and make arrangements, we will try to accomodate you and have a Senator present.

Mr. Shimon. Okay, I understand that.

Senator Huddleston. Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, at 3:15 o'clock p.m., the hearing was continued without the presence of a Senator, in Room S-406, the Capitol.)

TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH W. SHIMON

Mr. Rhea. Will you please state your name and address for the record?

Mr. Shimon. Joseph W. Shimon. My local address is 2912 North Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia 22207. My out of town address is Star Route 75, Kitzmiller, Maryland 21538. Kitzmiller is K-i-t-z-m-i-l-l-e-r.

Mr. Rhea. You've been sworn by Senator Huddleston, have you not?

Mr. Shimon. I have.

Mr. Rhea. Since Senator Huddleston is not present now, you are free to stop the questioning at any point that you wish. However, we appreciate your answering questions.

Mr. Shimon. I understand.

Mr. Rhea. You also have all of your Constitutional rights intact with this Committee. You are aware you have the right to an attorney?

Mr. Shimon. Yes.

Mr. Rhea. And have you decided not to have an attorney with you?

Mr. Shimon. I don't need an attorney.

Mr. Rhea. Okay.

Mr. Shimon. Edward Bennett Williams costs too much money. He represented me last time, although I am his private investigator, or I was at the time. I worked for nothing for three

1 years after that.

2 Mr. Rhea. You also have the Fifth Amendment right not

3 to answerquestions. Are you aware of that?

4 Mr. Shimon. Yes, I am aware of that.

5 Mr. Postal. Mr. Shimon, we're going to focus primarily

6 in events in the early part of the 1960's.

7 How were you employed in 1960?

8 Mr. Shimon. In 1960 I was an Inspector in the Detective

9 Bureau of the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.

10 Mr. Postal. At that time, did you know Robert Maheu?

11 Mr. Shimon. Yes, very well.

12 Mr. Postal. How long had you known Mr. Maheu?

13 Mr. Shimon. Four or five, maybe six years in the middle

14 '50's.

15 Mr. Postal. Did you meet him professionally?

16 Mr. Shimon. No, I met him socially.

17 Mr. Postal. And did your involvement become both

18 professional and social, or was it primarily social?

19 Mr. Shimon. Primarily social, other than that he did

20 discuss many of his operations with me, asked for opinions,

21 and I assisted him in a lot of things. This was not for pay,

22 this was a friendship deal. I would go to California with

23 him on this Hughes staff, you know, relieve the man in Tucson

24 for him, and didn't cost him anything. What the hell, it was

25 a vacation for me.

Mr. Postal. Did there come a time when you learned that Mr. Maheu had an association with the Central Intelligence Agency?

Mr. Shimon. I learned that in the '60's, and that was from the employees in the detective agency, which was then on 9th Street. There was Johnny Frank, Murphy, any number sitting around, general conversation, and the fact that he brought in a lunkhead, a dead issue guy that was strictly poison for the business, and I inquired what he was doing there, and they said they had to take him because his wife was very prominent CIA and CIA was picking up the tab for their rent. So I stopped knocking the guy.

Mr. Postal. Who was the guy, do you know?

Mr. Shimon. I forget his name, but he embarrassed us so badly that I had to go to New York and bail out Maheu.

Mr. Postal. Do you know Johnny Rosselli?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, yes.

Mr. Postal. When did you first meet Mr. Rosselli?

Mr. Shimon. I met Mr. Rosselli in the late '50's. I flew to Vegas -- I drove a Cadillac out for Bob Maheu. He wanted a Cadillac, he had a Lincoln, he was out there. I traded his Lincoln, drove the Cadillac out for him, brought my wife with me.

While we were there, he got a call from one of the operators that owned -- what was the name of the place that

burned down -- wanted to see him, he was a client, and it just was -- this client had Milton Berle in the room. Milton Berle wanted to frame Prima, Louie Prima. He wanted to build a frame on him by planting some dope on him. I'm listening to this, money changed, $2,000; so when we got back to Beverly Hills, I said to Bob, this is pure stuff, I don't hold stuff, what are you, playing games?

He says, yeah, I'm just taking money, and a couple of times, you just go back and write it off. And he said, you know, let's go through the motions, let's find out if Prima is involved in narcotics.

And I made some calls, you know, I used to work narcotics in Washington with everybody, too, and I said to Bob, I want a connection in Vegas, I didn't know anybody. I wanted a top guy I could talk to. He said, go to the Desert Inn and ask for Johnny Rosselli.

So I went there and had him paged. He gave me the room and introduced myself and this guy, and he almost gave me the brush until I mentioned another mutual friend we had, Gene Bomer's father-in-law, his name was Spitzler, Herman Spitzler, a very famous old con man. He was the man who when Tony Martin was in the Navy, he was supposed to get Tony promoted and Tony was supposed to give him a watch and there was a big scandal and this was the same guy. And this warmed us up, and I told him why I was there, and I gave him the whole story about the frame

and all, and of course he was right in my corner then. He said, gee, don't hold still for that and any connections you want.

And I said, what is the drug situation in Vegas, and I can honestly say in those days when the Mob ran Vegas, there were no three's, no hold-up men, and if a drug peddlar showed up there, he was found out in the desert. They didn't need a police department out there, I could see that.

So at 3:00 or 4:00 o'clock in the morning, I met with Milton and this other guy, wrote them off, said there's nothing to it, there's no way you can ever find drugs on Louie Prima. The purpose of this was that Milton was making a comeback and had signed a contract taking Louie Prima and his wife on, but they were great performers and doing like crazy, and I think Milton was afraid that they might steal the show, so he wanted an excuse to bump them.

Can we go off the record?

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Postal. All right. Let's go back on the record.

All right, so you met Johnny Rosselli out in Las Vegas. It was in the late '50's.

Did you remain close with Johnny afterwards?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah. Each year we went back after the next couple of years, or out to the West Coast we had dinner with them because of Herman Soltzler. Herman would always call

Johnny, he liked him.

Johnny was trying to interest me into moving to Vegas to take over security, and I just couldn't buy that, and if he came this way, he would always stop and say hello, because he was Mr. Big, not only in Vegas, he was Mr. Big in Beverly Hills, because it is, as you might know, he's the man that made the famous picture "He Walked by Night," but because he'd been in prison, they never put his name on it as producer. He was always mixed up in the movie crowd.

Mr. Postal. When did you first come in with Sam Giancana?

Mr. Shimon. I met him for the first time at the Fontainbleau in 1961.

Mr. Postal. Okay.

Let's focus on that particular time.

Did there come a time when you went to Miami with Bob Maheu?

Mr. Shimon. Bob Maheu.

Mr. Postal. What were the circumstances surrounding that trip?

Mr. Shimon. I was invited by Bob to see the Patterson-Johansson fight. This was originally a dinner; I had Bob and his wife for dinner. He invited me and I said no, and my wife said, oh, come on, you know, Bob feels bad you won't go, and I said I don't care about fights. So anyway, I changed my mind and I went down. We flew down and went right into the Fontainbleau. We didn't even register, we went right

up to his suite.

Mr. Postal. You did not register?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, no. We went right up to the suite. And in the suite was Sam, Johnny Rosselli and a fellow named Lou somebody, the public relations man out of Chicago.

Mr. Postal. Lederer?

Mr. Shimon. Lederer. Lou was there. Lou was on his way to Jamaica to look at some casinos.

The conversation, oh, for the first hour or two there was between Sam, Johnny and the casinos in Jamaica somewhere and then Lou left. And we were hanging around and I asked the question, let's go out and let's go to the pool, let's do something, what the hell, sitting in the room in Miami. And they said, we're waiting for a contact.

I said what's the story, and Bob said, well, you know, we got a contract to take care of Castro. What kind of contract? How are you going to do it? A bottle. This liquid is something that CIA concocted.

Mr. Postal. Was it liquid?

Mr. Shimon. He said a liquid. I didn't even went to look at it. In a minute, I hear this. I'm a cop, you realize. They're talking about killing somebody. I don't care who it is. I'm still wearing a pin.

So this is supposed to be put in his food and he's supposed to get ill and stay ill for two or three days and then die.

nothing sudden, and then an autopsy would not reveal whatever killed him.

Who was going to administer it? Some fellow was coming by and either he had a cousin who was the chef for Castro, or he had a friend that was a chef for Castro, one of those. Waiting to hear from him.

The poison was passed. Well, we kicked it around, and I'm very familiar with security for heads of government, and I went into great detail and told them what I had to do, the job I had to do with the Swedish Prince, what we do with the President, and I said, hell, this guy's probably an expert at assassination himself. He's not going to go for a thing like this.

Furthermore, I think his security is so perfect that everybody on his staff would sure as hell be checked out as to their relatives and who was in exile and what the hell, and there's another thing, they all agreed about one out of every five of those exiles belongs to Castro. He planted Florida full of them.

And he said well, they knew there were some planted. And I said, I think you'll find there's a hell of a lot planted, and this is a great secret, nobody's supposed to know it, the Bureau -- well, way down deep -- hell. Like I said, to me it was a joke, to be honest with you.

I'm a pro. You don't do it that way. You know, some guy -- and I said you're paying this fellow? Oh, yes. Well, that's

enough for me. You don't give him anything until he brings the body back.

But anyway, I forget whether it was that night or the next night, we all went and we had dinner and then we went to see the Jimmy Durante show and the whole gang, and we had Sinatra, twenty-six of us went to dinner, but anyway, the contact was made. And this fellow showed up outside the Boom Boom Room.

Mr. Postal. This is where?

Mr. Shimon. The Fontainbleau.

A short guy, and I felt like he had a reddish tint to his hair. He didn't belong in the lobby. He looked like a bad bug in a silken bed.

Mr. Postal. What was he dressed like?

Mr. Shimon. He had a dark shirt, and a shirt on, open collar, no tie. He looked like a typical Cuban that you saw up and down the streets. You know, Miami Beach was loaded with them.

I remember saying Sam, this is a creep. What the hell is this? Because Sam took a dim view of it.

Well, Johnny disappeared with this guy.

Mr. Postal. Did Johnny tell you that he made the --

Mr. Shimon. No, no. Bob said, he's doing the talking. Johnny's going to handle everything, this is Johnny's contact. So while we were waiting, I was strolling around, Johnny came back, he had to go see some French entertainer, and we separated

and Sam and I were walking, doing some window shopping, and he said, how in the hell did you get into this, and I said I came to see a fight, what are you doing in it? And he said, I am not in it, and they're asking me for some names of guys who used to work in casinos.

And then he also said this, it was crazy, that Mahou's conning the hell out of the CIA. He said it's a laugh. I'm not in it, I came to see a fight.

So then there was a big party, an all-night thing, going from club to club with Sinatra and everybody got drunk except me. I had to haul Mahou in on my back and put him in the tub to sober him up so he could call somebody and say everything was all right.

We came back to Washington. About two days later, we saw in The Washington Post -- about two days after the fight -- Castro was taken ill. My phone rang, Bob says, we got him, he says, "you see the paper? Castro's ill. He's going to be sick two or three days. Now, we got him.

Well, they didn't get him. I think they got the [illegible] the suit and planted the story.

Mr. Postal. Did you get to see the newspaper?

Mr. Shimon. I read the paper.

Mr. Postal. You saw the article?

Mr. Shimon. I saw the article.

Mr. Postal. Was it on the front page?

Mr. Shimon. I'll be honest with you. I mean, there was

1 just amateurs. I mean, I couldn't figure CIA -- I know there's
2 a lot of able guys and I have a lot of respect for them, there's
3 really some good operators there, but this was a stupid
4 operation. I couldn't believe it. You don't set up a thing --
5 well, I'm not going to tell you how to set it up. You'll think
6 I've been doing this thing for a living or something and you
7 wonder why they call me in. Well, I wondered why they called
8 me in, other than I think they wanted a Washington contact for
9 leg work in case Bob wasn't available because he was on the Hughes
10 payroll too, you know.

11 Because when Johnny came in town, like one time he called
12 me, he said CIA wants to locate three Cubans, and they're
13 supposed to be in some hotel in Washington, and the first
14 thought came to mind, the CIA, why can't they call the hotels
15 and find out for themselves.

16 Now, I'm supposed to do it, police department facilities.
17 Well, it wasn't much trouble, I could just say to one of my
18 clerks, call the hotel and find out. So I picked up
19 Johnny and I take him to lunch, and the funny thing, coming back
20 from lunch going toward the Mayflower Hotel, there in front of
21 the Annapolis Hotel were the three, he knew these three.
22 Apparently he'd talked to them before, and there they were on
23 the corner. So he got out of the car and I drove around the
24 corner and he stood and talked to those men for better than
25 two hours, and then we went directly to the hotel and checked

in, and straight to my house and he picked up the phone and called Big Jim O'Connell and Big Jim came over, and he reported to Big Jim whatever took place at this meeting with these Cubans.

Now, I didn't sit in on that, because I didn't want to hear it.

Mr. Postal. Do you know when that was, what time? When did that take place, do you know?

Mr. Shimon. A couple of months after the fight.

Mr. Postal. A couple of months after the fight?

Mr. Shimon. It was in the spring of the year, it was 1961.

Mr. Rhea. When you were down in Miami, did you see Big Jim down there?

Mr. Shimon. No, no.

Mr. Postal. Did anybody suggest he was in town, in Miami?

Mr. Shimon. He was not in town, because we would have seen him. I have met Big Jim in Bob's house many times. In fact, I know Jim and if he'd been anywhere in town, I mean even if he had not called, I would have known it was him. No, he wasn't there on that trip.

Mr. Postal. Did you ever see Johnny with Big Jim?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, yeah, we all had dinner together one night, put Johnny on the plane, and Big Jim was going somewhere and he got drunk and we put him on the plane. One of those messy nights, you know.

Mr. Postal. When was that, do you know?

Mr. Shimon. Sometime that same year.

Mr. Postal. Had they been coming from someplace together?

Mr. Shimon. No, they met here. Johnny was here. I had him in the Hay-Adams -- not the Hay-Adams, the Hamilton Hotel. We did our drinking in the Purple Room and Jim came over.

Mr. Postal. Well, let's focus for a minute on the suite in the Fontainbleau when Johnny was talking about the poison.

What were Sam's reactions to what Johnny was talking about? Was he saying anything there?

Mr. Shimon. He was sitting there with a player, he had a thing in his ear. He was listening to all of Sinatra's tapes. Sinatra would send them down. -- see, this Sinatra was a real pain to us. He was a great admirer -- he just adored Sam or anybody. He'd be calling down every fifteen minutes wanting to come down. Sam says, no, don't let the big mouthed guinea in here. You know, he blew off Lucky Luciano with that big mouth of his, and if he gets any wind of this it will be all over, because he'll brag about it.

So he kept sending these tapes down and then he would call, did Sam like it. Sam was listening to the tapes. Half of the time he doesn't know what we're talking about and he doesn't care. And if you knew Sam at all, he's the most detached guy in the world. You know, you're in the room and he doesn't know what you're talking about. He doesn't care, other than he'd

1 laugh at some of these things, you know, these James Bond
2 people calling, CIA guys, you know, kill Castro.
3 Mr. Postal. What about Bob Maheu, what was his reaction?
4 Mr. Shimon. Well, now, Bob was very serious. Bob was, at
5 that time, having a show. After all, he was on the payroll,
6 they were paying the rent on 19th Street, CIA paid all the
7 rent, all the expenses, and he was very serious about it, he
8 took this thing seriously because he sold the program. I under-
9 stand it was his original idea.
10 Mr. Dawson. Where do you get that understanding from?
11 Mr. Shimon. I got that from Sam and Johnny generally.
12 We were talking about it. The first thing I said was how in
13 the hell does he come up with you guys, you know. Well, it
14 was his idea. He put it altogether, and Johnny's a great
15 flagwaver and strictly -- in spite of his background, he's an
16 All American guy, wave the flag, stand up and sing the Star
17 Spangled Bananas, as we call it, but Sam wasn't, you couldn't
18 even draft him, he didn't want any part of it.
19 Mr. Dawson. Did they tell you or relate to you in any way
20 when the first contact with Maheu, when he had first been
21 contacted by Maheu?
22 Mr. Shimon. No, general conversation. I imagine any of
23 the trips, Bob was travelling back and forth every week to the
24 West Coast and Vegas, so it could have happened any time. It
25 could not have been directly to Sam. I don't think he talked

to Sam.

Johnny probably brought Sam into it because Sam was not permitted to come to Nevada, he was barred, the whole blacklist, you know, so I imagine Bob had to go to Chicago to talk to him with Johnny and introduce him, because I don't think Bob knew Sam, because Sam was out of the picture, he could not come to Vegas.

Mr. Dawson. Was it your impression that he had a long relationship in regard to this assassination attempt?

Mr. Shimon. No. No. I think Bob was trying to hustle up or trying to get the contract for some of the Vegas business and he had some of it and he already had a good client, had Milton Berle was one and another guy was a client. This was running two or three thousand dollars a month trying to set up the guy's wife in New York.

Mr. Dawson. Do you have any specific recollection that there had been a longstanding relationship to try to assassinate Castro?

Mr. Shimon. My feeling was that this thing came to a head in the hope -- that the whole thing came to a head right there in the Fontainbleau, because I had a feeling that Sam did not know anything about it until that day.

Mr. Postal. What about Johnny?

Mr. Shimon. Johnny, I had a feeling, had talked and knew a lot about it. In fact, there had been a meeting and he was

to meet somebody. So there had to be some contacts made before. It wasn't just a quick contact.

Mr. Postal. Did you ask Johnny about it?

Mr. Shimon. No, no. All my conversation about this, more or less -- see, I was not close to Johnny, really, it was Bob. Bob said, look, this is a Bureau thing, we're setting it up, this is what they want done, you know how they operate, did not want to talk about it.

Mr. Postal. It was a Bureau thing?

Mr. Shimon. What we call the Bureau in the CIA.

Mr. Dawson. But you don't know that they had a long relationship? It was just your assumption and your feeling, is that correct?

Mr. Shimon. I don't believe it was a long relationship. I can tell you why. I think the first thing -- and this is my own opinion -- the first thing that Mahen was doing for CIA was in the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Rhea. And what was that?

Mr. Shimon. Selling them a lot of equipment and doing a lot of work, because when Morris Ernst got into the picture, the CIA and Trujillo, Bob stepped out and said to me, do you want that contract to work with these people down there, there's a lot of money in it. And I said, I don't want any part of Trujillo. So he turned the contract over to Johnny Frank who worked in his office. Johnny used to be a CIA agent and an FBI

guy.

And then you know Johnny, who was convicted of failing to register as a foreign agent, but then he handled the thing, and the thing got real hot, and then when they killed Galendas (?) and Bob wanted to shake all knowledge of that, although they had Bob and Johnny Frank right by the red ones on that, although they couldn't prove it.

So that I think was a CIA thing originally, and that goes back to the time that the rent was being paid and all.

MR. Postal. Did Bob ever pay you about work he did for the CIA in getting women for foreign leaders, or anything like that?

Mr. Shimon. Not for the CIA, he did it for the State Department. That was this guy in Indonesia, Sukarno. Oh, yeah. I got the broads here for him. I gave him the number of the call girls. State Department paid for it.

A former Bureau agent, used to be Styles Bridges' administrative assistant and they put him over there in charge of State security, you know that meant they wanted to put everybody on lie detector tests to see how many homosexuals, and then they made him the Ambassador to Ireland. Jeez, I could talk all day about that nut. He would be the one to call girls for Sukarno, and of course, in the Department, all I had to do was go to the file to get any number of call girls that we had on file, half of them were our own informers, and say take your pick.

1 Mr. Postal. When you were down in Miami at the Fontainbleau,
2 did you have any occasion to see any FBI agents around?
3 Mr. Shimon. Well, I am sure there were two FBI agents
4 and I'll tell you why. We were sitting in the Boom Boom Room
5 and of all people, Paul Young that owns Paul Young's restaurant
6 and the fellow that owns the Blake Construction Company, who's
7 now dead, Jake somebody, they came in and joined us, and they
8 came in, Paul recognized me, came in and sat down at the table
9 and they brought a couple of broads, that's all we needed.
10 So we're sitting around and I happen to glance at the
11 table adjoining us, working through a menu in a guy taking
12 pictures with a camera of the whole table. And I just said to
13 Bob, hey, I said, fade, somebody's taking pictures, get Sam
14 out of here first and let's see who's drawing the heat. Sam
15 would be the natural guy to draw heat.
16 And sure enough, Sam got up and sauntered out of the
17 Boom Boom Room, and with that, these two fellows got up and
18 walked out behind him. So Bob and I dropped behind them.
19 So Sam sauntered all around those long halls, if you're
20 familiar with the Fontainbleau, you can walk for a week, and
21 these agents behind him, and suddenly the agents discovered
22 we were behind them, and they ducked into the room, and into
23 one of the bars and sat down.
24 Mr. Postal. Did you see him any more during the weekend?
25 Mr. Shimon. No, we were on the look-out for them.

Mr. Dawson. Do you know who the two agents were?

Mr. Shimon. I saw one of them in Washington later, I know I know his name, because he kind of looked at me, I don't think he was happy with me for some reason or another.

Mr. Postal. All right.

I'd like to direct your attention now to a slightly different period of time, that is the Las Vegas wiretap situation.

To the best of your knowledge, was the CIA involved in that?

Mr. Shimon. Never, no way.

Mr. Postal. What were the circumstances surrounding that?

Mr. Shimon. Sam was in love with Phyllis -- you know, Sam was a widower, playing the field, but suddenly he got quite a case off for Phyllis, wild about her, in fact. She was playing Nevada, and of course, with Sam's connections, everything was at his fingertips, so the little story got out that she was playing around with either Rowan or Martin, I forget which one was the great lover. And Sam was a very jealous fellow, very possessive, and he wanted to know if this was the truth, you know, if this was a cheatin' broad, he didn't want her around.

So he got John there because he couldn't come in, to get Mahsu because he knew Mahsu did this sort of thing, or had this done, to bug the room, or whatever it was.

So Mahsu gave the contract to a fellow named DuBois, a

former friend and an agent in Miami, and he brought two fellows in and they made the installation, and then they went into the crap tables and didn't cover their installation, and that is why it blew.

Now, of course, the FBI got into it and they wanted an indictment, a big investigation, and talked to Bob, and Bob was standing still and was supposed to sit still and not name who hired him, and he was sitting still. I talked to him almost every day, I was holding his hand, because he was scared, and the local agents knew that I knew Bob very well, they used to kid me at police headquarters saying that friend of yours is really going up the ladder this time, we're going to drop him. He's sitting still, but he's still got to go, and anyway, he didn't sit still too long.

But finally, he did name, he said, well, I'll tell you, I don't know the man that really hired me, other than they called him Johnny.

Well, if you said Johnny in Vegas in those years, there was only one Johnny, he ran the whole strip, so the FBI went right to Johnny; of course, Johnny wouldn't tell them anything, so they went on, proceeding to prepare an indictment, they were going to indict Johnny and Bob.

Bob set up his own defense. He appealed, I think, to Big Jim first and Big Jim carried the message that if this thing broke, he would have to use the Castro thing as a defense.

He was going to say that because of Sam's knowledge, he was afraid that Sam might have been talking to Phyllis and Phyllis might be in bed with Rowan or Martin and telling them about it. It was so farfetched it was ridiculous, but the CIA bought it, and they went to the Department of Justice and stopped the indictment.

Mr. Postal. All right, now, let's nail down the timeframe and consider the facts here.

Sam paid for the tap, is that right?

Mr. Shimon. $5,000. That's according to Sam's own statement.

Mr. Postal. And that money was paid to Bob Mahou and then Bob sent the contract out to Miami and to DuBoise and DuBoise sent the guys out?

Mr. Shimon. That's right.

Mr. Postal. Is it possible that Bob could have involved the CIA in the tap and you not know about it?

Mr. Shimon. It's possible, but he could not sell the CIA on a tap like that, because the story was ridiculous. There's no fools in the CIA, really. They're no clunkers. Bob was doing the sort of thing that burned Sam up and as a matter of fact, it cooled us all off on Bob that he would do a thing like this, because it made Sam look ridiculous. The Bureau went right to Sam, too, you know, and Sam says, what do you mean I was talking to some broad about something? This is crazy. Sam

1 was never known to have too much mouth about anything, and par-
2 ticularly to tell a girl that he knew something about a plot
3 and she in turn was sleeping with somebody else, and Bob in the
4 meantime was checking for a leak, why didn't he check Johnny?
5 Mr. Postal. Well, let me ask you this now.
6 We have established the pills were passed in 1961.
7 Mr. Shimon. It was supposed to be a liquid.
8 Mr. Postal. Liquid, I'm sorry. In the spring of 1961.
9 Mr. Shimon. Yes.
10 Mr. Postal. Do you know when the wiretap occurred?
11 Mr. Shimon. Months later.
12 Mr. Postal. It appeared after this?
13 Mr. Shimon. After this, yeah, months later.
14 Mr. Postal. Well, the records at the Bureau at the time
of the wiretap as being October of 1962, late October 1960.
Mr. Shimon. No, they're wrong.
Mr. Postal. Is it possible that you could have been in [illegible]
at a different time?
Mr. Shimon. No, I was only there once, and I am going to
tell you why I know, because after this tap and all the
investigation, the indictment was killed, many months passed,
the FBI intercepted Johnny Roselli on the street in Beverly [illegible]
and showed him a picture of a woman with a little boy and so,
we're the only guys that know this.
We know that you're an alien, your name is Socco. We kn[illegible]

1 who you're working for, and you're going to work for us or else
2 you're going to be deported.
3 Now, John immediately got on the phone, called me, came to
4 New York and he brought his attorney and we talked about it, and
5 then he came to Washington and looked up Ed Morgan, used to be
6 an Inspector of the FBI, and said, what am I going to do about
7 this, and Ed's advice was why don't you work for them, and
8 I said, Ed, you're not telling this guy to become a stool
9 pigeon for the FBI, are you, he won't be alive a week.
10 And he said, well, Long Knoon Lohmann (?) was a stool
11 pigeon for us for ten years and lasted a long time, and I just
12 told Johnny to forget it.
13 Mr. Postal. The business with the photograph occurred
14 a few years later, didn't it?
15 Mr. Shimon. Yeah, yeah.
16 Mr. Postal. Let's go back to the timeframe of 1960 and
17 '61. If we can place the timeframe in the fall of 1960 --
18 Mr. Shimon. That's not the tap I'm talking about, because
19 I had not met Sam in 1960 and I talked to Sam about this in
20 1960.
21 Mr. Postal. You talked about the wiretap to Sam in '61?
22 Mr. Shimon. Because he called me all kinds of dirty names
23 and this made him look like a real ham, and then put the heat on
24 by sending in the Bureau on it.
25 Mr. Postal. Well, when you met Sam in Miami and you

1 were there with Johnny and Bob, had there already been a wiretap
2 in Las Vegas? Did they talk about the wiretap as if it had
3 already happened?
4 Mr. Shimon. No, no conversation at all.
5 Mr. Postal. All right.
6 Now, let me ask you this.
7 When Bob Mahou went to Big Jim O'Connell and said, look,
8 Big Jim, if you don't help us with this tap we're going to tell
9 about the Cuban thing, had he been talking about the bottle of
10 poison that had happened when you were in Miami, or was he
11 talking about another time?
12 Mr. Shimon. He was talking about the bottle of poison and
13 that particular trip. That was supposed to be passed on that
14 trip.
15 Mr. Postal. That's what he talked to Big Jim about?
16 Mr. Shimon. No, not to Big Jim. My knowledge, I didn't
17 hear him talk to Big Jim about that at all.
18 Mr. Postal. Well, let's see if we can get this straight.
19 It was Bob that talked to Big Jim?
20 Mr. Shimon. He was dealing up the show. Big Jim was
21 handing the CIA in and Bob was handling Johnny.
22 Mr. Postal. Johnny.
23 And Bob said to Big Jim, you've got to do something about
24 this prosecution with the Justice Department.
25 Mr. Shimon. Well, whoever he said that to. Either that

he said it to some fellow. There was another name, Sisson or something.

Mr. Postal. What's the name?

Mr. Shimon. Was there a Sisson, some higher man in the outfit? Over Big Jim, and I'm going to tell you why. When Johnny was talking to me after this, he said, okay, we want you to take over certain aspects of this security in Vegas, but we don't want you to be identified with us, so we want you to back in. CIA has a project outside of Vegas. You get on the payroll there and come off the CIA payroll into Vegas, so they won't tie you -- wouldn't be of any value if they tied me in, to the employers. I said to Big Jim, how about that thing in Vegas? [illegible] I said, talk to Bob's friend. If you give me a list of [illegible] I can tell you. It was one of the Assistant Directors.

Mr. Postal. Does Bissell sound right?

Mr. Shimon. That's right. He said, tell Bob to call Bissell. I wasn't that interested; I just wanted to see what the situation was. In the first place, I'm not about to go working in the desert to build up a reputation and wind up in Vegas, and wind up in the desert anyway when this is all over.

Mr. Blee. Have you heard the name "Edwards" in connection with this?

Mr. Shimon. No.

Mr. Postal. Let's take a five minute break.

(A brief recess was taken.)

Mr. Postal. Let's go back on the record.

Mr. Shimon, we would like to once again go through the chronology of the dates.

We have certain documents which substantiate most of the details you have given us, but the dates we are having some problems with.

You are sure that you were in Miami at the Fountainblou at the time of the Johansen-Patterson fight?

Mr. Shimon. No question, and I saw the knockout and rode back to the hotel with Paul Young and Jake, and went upstairs and went to Sinatra's suite and met the Governor's Counsel there, and we had a party, no question about it. And Sinatra was playing at the same time.

Mr. Postal. Where was he playing?

Mr. Shimon. In the Fountainbleu.

Mr. Postal. At the Fountainbleu.

Mr. Shimon. Yes.

Mr. Rhea. Was that the same day that you saw this liquid being passed?

Mr. Shimon. I didn't see liquid being passed.

Mr. Postal. That you saw the bottle?

Mr. Saimon. No. Bob said he had the liquid, that Johnny was going to pass it.

Mr. Rhea. Did that occur that same night?

Mr. Shimon. That night or the next night, in that area.

of 24 or 48 hours, I couldn't really say. I know, the night we saw the guy with the red hair, that's the night that Johnny was supposed to pass it.

Mr. Postal. Does the date March 12, 1961 sound about right?

Mr. Shimon. I know it was early in the year. Yes. It was in the spring of the year.

Mr. Postal. The spring of the year?

Is there any way you can peg that? Did you have vacation time or a weekend or some event that might fix it in your mind?

Mr. Shimon. As I say, the only thing that fixes it in my mind, that's the only heavyweight fight I went to see outside of Washington when we had heavyweight fights here. When I used to run the Bureau, I used to have a pickpocket detail. I used to go out and see that the boys were working. I wouldn't look at the fights. I wouldn't watch the bums out there. And this one I had to sit through at ringside and watch these two bums. That is why I remember.

Mr. Postal. Do you recall at that time anyone showing you a magazine article? Did Bob perhaps bring a magazine article to your attention about Sam or any of the people that were there?

Mr. Shimon. No, but I had read a magazine article about Sam in one of the crime magazines, and I was kind of surprised that I met him face to face there. I had read about him where

he was supposed to be responsible for 40 murders, where the last one was some guy they stuffed in the sewer, a nightclub owner, and that stuck in my mind when I saw him that this is the guy I was reading about.

Mr. Postal. How about the name Joe Traficante? Does that ring a bell?

Mr. Shimon. No.

Mr. Postal. Or Santos Traficante?

Mr. Shimon. No.

Mr. Postal. When you were in Miami, did Sam talk about the wiretap?

Mr. Shimon. Not a word.

Mr. Postal. When was the first time you heard about the wiretap? Was that after that?

Mr. Shimon. After that, when Bob called me and said the FBI were going to indict him.

Mr. Postal. So shortly after the time you were in Miami, Bob told you that the FBI was getting ready to indict him, for wiretap.

Mr. Shimon. Right.

Mr. Postal. And then he told you the story of the wiretap.

In what timeframe did he place the wiretap. Did he tell you all about the wiretap sometime before?

Mr. Shimon. No. I have no timeframe other than there was a wiretap, the boys had it, they blew it and that the Bureau

had it, and there was a stink coming up.

Mr. Postal. So it was something that happened earlier.

Mr. Shimon. Could have happened earlier. This is when the Bureau was putting the heat on him.

Mr. Postal. About the time you were in Miami.

Mr. Shimon. No, this was after Miami.

Mr. Postal. Just after Miami.

Mr. Shimon. Because it was shortly after --now, when the thing was finally settled, Bob was fired by CIA -- now this is according to Sam -- and I suddenly realized Bob suddenly picked up and moved, sold his house and moved to California, and when I saw Johnny on one of his trips here, wondering why he hadn't called. Normally he would be calling Bob, and he said something, well, Bob's not in it anymore. And in subsequent years when I got talking about -- when I talked to Sam in later years about this thing, he said well, you notice, Harvey took it over and they had to get rid of that, as Harvey described it, dirty double-crossing son of a bitch that blew the whole thing to save his own ass. This is the way Harvey described Maheu, and in fact, he said to Johnny, somebody ought to kill that son of a bitch.

Mr. Postal. Have you met Bill Harvey?

Mr. Shimon. I know who he is. I didn't meet him. He used to have an office here, and hang around the Madison Hotel.

I set up the security at the Madison, so I knew everybody that went in and out of there.

Of course, I used to put Johnny in there and then Harvey would come in to see him.

Mr. Postal. When did Harvey's association with Johnny begin, do you know?

Mr. Shimon. It began, I believe, after they fired Mahou.

Mr. Postal. Do you know when that would be?

Mr. Shimon. This would be after the Department of Justice agreed not to prosecute Mahou, and then CIA had to dump Mahou and get him off the payroll.

Mr. Postal. How long after the time you were in Miami?

Mr. Shimon. Months. This would have to be some months.

Mr. Postal. A few months, a lot of months?

Mr. Shimon. I would say five, six, seven months. It would have to be that much time.

Mr. Postal. Before the thing was finally put to rest?

Mr. Shimon. Yes.

MR. Postal. So if you were in Miami, say, in March, you think it would be put to rest, when, around August or September?

Mr. Shimon. Yes. Why I know that, suddenly after it was all put to rest, Johnny disappeared. Couldn't find Johnny anywhere, and Sam couldn't find Johnny. The CIA put Johnny under wraps.

Now, later I learned that Johnny was here. They have a

hideout apartment. He was doing things here. Whatever they had, they were working back and forth, flying in and out. Big Jim was in on it because I said to Johnny one time, I said, you know, I can't understand this, you being in Washington all of those weeks and months and you didn't call me, and he said Harvey told him not to call me because he said he's still close to that son of a bitch Maheu, and we don't want Maheu to know anything.

Mr. Dawson. You said he's still close to that son of a bitch Maheu, he being --

Mr. Shimon. Me. Because he know I was still visiting with Bob, seeing bob, going out to the west coast. He didn't want Johnny to be telling me that -- seeing or having any connection with Maheu.

Mr. Postal. Well, let me step out of this timeframe and ask you one question.

Did Johnny ever tell you that the Attorney General, Bobby Kennedy, had sent someone to him to be put in contact with some Cubans while he was at that apartment in Washington?

Mr. Shimon. No, no, he never mentioned that.

Mr. Postal. Do you know the details of how Big Jim took care of the prosecution with the Department of Justice?

Mr. Shimon. I think he visited the Attorney General.

Mr. Postal. Do you know when that was?

Big Jim went?

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1 Mr. Shimon. Big Jim. I get this from Big Jim himself
2 because one time we were talking about Big Jim going to the
3 Long Committee, and he said he had to go to the Long Committee
4 to get Bob bailed out, using the same excuses he used earlier.
5 So I assume he did it using the same excuse he used earlier.
6 Mr. Postal. Let me ask you this. If we place the wiretap
7 in 1960 in the fall of 1960, that's a half a year before you
8 were in Miami, would that change the way you feel about the
9 time?
10 Mr. Shimon. The only way I could explain that would be
11 that it took the Bureau that long to work up their case on
12 Bob. There might have been a lot of wiretaps, you know. Vegas
13 looked like a spider's web. Everybody was tapped. They might
14 have been building it all up, had Bob under surveillance or
15 working on the boys, working on the guys. It might have been
16 months before they decided to confront Bob with that. I can
17 understand that, sure, how they could have waited all this time
18 to finally say now, Bob, we want to talk to you. And that's
19 procedure. Sure, that could happen.
20 Mr. Postal. Did Bob tell you -- well, let me ask you --
21 did Bob first tell the Bureau that the CIA was involved in the
22 Vegas tap?
23 Mr. Shimon. I don't think Bob ever told the Bureau. I
24 think if Big Jim was the one that went down, he was the one
25 that did it, not Bob. To my knowledge Bob has never said anything

to anybody in the Justice Department or the Bureau as to what he did. This was done through an agent of the CIA.

Mr. Postal. Do you know a man by the name of Sam Papich?

Mr. Shimon. No.

Mr. Postal. Our records have shown us, in fact, Bob did talk to somebody at the Bureau.

Well, let me ask you this. How long after the time you were in Miami do you recall was the Bay of Pigs operation?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, the Bay of Pigs followed it.

Mr. Postal. Shortly?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, yeah, within a couple of weeks or a month or so. In fact, they were talking about it at the table.

Mr. Postal. Who was talking about it at the table?

Mr. Shimon. I don't know whether it was Sam or Johnny or Bob, you know, I hope they hold that thing off and see if we can get this thing behind us.

Mr. Postal. This was going on in the conversation at dinner?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, that they figured they were trying, somebody said stall the Bay of Pigs operation.

Mr. Postal. They called it that?

Mr. Shimon. Whatever they called it. I know then there was supposed to be an invasion of some kind. The government -- is the only time I heard Kennedy's name mentioned.

Mr. Postal. Why don't you tell us the whole conversation

as best you can recall it.

Mr. Shimon. It was a conversation about an attack or somebody was going to move in on Cuba. A lot of guys, recruits, guys, are being trained down in the jungle somewhere, and the remark was made at the table, I hope Bobby or somebody holds this off until we get a crack with our program on Castro, because if we can knock him out, we won't have to -- you won't have to do the other thing.

Now, that's the gist of the thing. It meant nothing to me at the time other than later on when there was the Bay of Pigs, I remembered that little conversation, that's all.

Mr. Postal. Do you think it was Bob Maheu that made the comment?

Mr. Shimon. It could have been. It could have been John. I know it wasn't Sam because Sam --

Mr. Postal. Was that the only mention of Bobby?

Mr. Shimon. If there was anything else said, I don't recall it.

Mr. Dawson. You're not even sure that he mentioned Robert Kennedy's name.

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, right, I'm not sure who --

Mr. Postal. You thought they mentioned someone named Bobby?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, I thought they said Bobby or somebody like Bobby should hold this thing off, whoever had the power

to hold it off. Now, it could not have been a Kennedy. It could have been a Bobby anybody, but whoever they were talking about, it could have been somebody in the CIA, but I remember that because of the Bay of Pigs, when the whole thing blew up I remembered that part of the conversation, and they were so sure that had their plan gone off, that the Bay of Pigs would not have been necessary.

Mr. Postal. Do you recall how long after the Bay of Pigs it was before the Attorney General was talked to by either Big Jim or whoever?

Mr. Shimon. I don't know. I couldn't tell you exactly.

Mr. Postal. Well, do you have any idea?

Mr. Shimon. Well, I would say that same year or so because after that, I say, I lost track of Johnny other than the conversation once with Sam and I saw Bob from time to time. That was it.

Mr. Postal. Did you keep in contact with Sam after this time?

Mr. Shimon. I wouldn't say in contact. Sam is a great guy for calling you 2:00, 3:00 o'clock in the morning from someplace and saying what's going on. He did call several times and say what do you hear from Johnny. I hadn't heard anything from Johnny and neither had he. And Johnny was underground.

And I remember calling him one time, months passed, what's happened to Johnny. You know, you figure somebody might have killed him. And he said I don't know. I can't find out.

Bob couldn't find out.

Mr. Postal. Let me ask you this.

We have information to the effect that prior to the time you were in Miami, a substantial period of time prior, Sam had made a statement to someone who relayed it to the Bureau, the Bureau being the FBI, that somebody was going to put some pills in Castro's food or something like that.

Did Sam ever tell you about an earlier, any information that he had previously about this kind of thing?

Mr. Shimon. He never mentioned it. Now, I was under the impression that this was Sam's first venture with this because he really --

Mr. Dawson. But that's the only basis for it, so you could be wrong.

Mr. Shimon. I could be wrong.

Mr. Dawson. What you believe is otherwise.

Mr. Shimon. Yes.

Mr. Dawson. Okay.

Mr. Shimon. Anyhow Sam talked so many times about this -- so many times -- he would have told me about any earlier -- I think he would have mentioned it sometime. In fact, I think about a year ago last Christmas he was at the house and we kicked the whole thing around, Maheu, the whole fiasco, and money, and you know, all the trouble it had brought, and hell, I think he would have brought it up.

Mr. Postal. When Bob went to the CIA after he had mentioned Johnny's name to the FBI agents, did you get the impression that he had worked this out with the CIA, or did you get the idea that he had to beat O'Connell over the head a little bit before --

Mr. Shimon. I don't know how he did other than he was well thought of, and as I say, they were picking up all the tabs, running the show. Robert A. Maheu Associates was the front. So I guess he was in good standing. He didn't have to beat anybody I don't imagine.

Mr. Postal. Well, did he say he was going to have to reveal the CIA's activity with Cuba or did he say Johnny was going to?

Mr. Shimon. He was going to have to do it, not Johnny. Johnny wouldn't.

Mr. Postal. Bob said he would.

Mr. Shimon. Oh, yeah.

Mr. Postal. Did Johnny tell you at the time you were in Miami when he got that bottle of liquid, how long he had had it?

Mr. Shimon. He didn't tell me. I thought that Bob had brought the bottle with him on the trip that I was with him on. I thought he brought it down, that night when we went to the fight. That was my impression.

Mr. Rhea. Did anyone tell you that?

Mr. Shimon. No, but the way the bottle story came out,

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1 you know, we've got the stuff and Johnny's going to pass it.
2 I assumed he just brought it in.
3 Mr. Postal. Do you remember the time when Sam sued the FBI
4 in Chicago?
5 Mr. Shimon. I remember reading about it.
6 Mr. Postal. You talked to Sam about it?
7 Mr. Shimon. Well, I talked to him a million times about it.
8 Mr. Postal. Well, let me ask you this. Perhaps we could
9 focus on that for a second.
Do you recall Sam saying anything about the fact that he had taken the stand in that action?
Mr. Shimon. No.
Mr. Postal. Did he say anything about the fact that he had worked out a deal or that a deal had been worked out with the Department of Justice relative to him?
Mr. Shimon. He never worked out any deal. He just said he was so damn sick and tired of being harrassed. He just said to his lawyer, let's harrass those bastards, and that's the way he put it. And he said he sure harrassed them, and he got a ruling in his favor.
Mr. Postal. Did Sam ever talk to you about Bobby Kennedy?
Mr. Shimon. No.
Mr. Postal. He never mentioned Bobby Kennedy to you?
Mr. Shimon. Not that I recall. It might have been Bobby Kennedy, the Attorney General, he might have mentioned the

Attorney General, but there was no feeling, no personal expression, none, nothing about Kennedy.

Mr. Postal. Did Sam ever say to you that it was his opinion that the FBI was out to get him?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, yes, because we talked about what suddenly brought all the heat on Sam by the FBI, and we traced it back to Johnny's identity on this tap, Johnny to Sam, and from then on the Bureau moved in, they moved in on Phyllis. Up to that time nobody had ever talked to Phyllis. They harrassed her everywhere she went, and then they started to harrass Johnny back and forth, and they were under constant surveillance. Johnny and Sam said, both said this was the beginning of the harrassment by the FBI, up to that time they were never bothered by the FBI. The only people that were bothering Sam at all was the Crime Commission in Chicago. Joe Woods was giving them a little trouble. Joe was a former Bureau agent.

Mr. Postal. That's the McClellan Committee?

Mr. Shimon. No, that was the Crime Commission in Chicago. Then he was elected Sheriff. His sister's the secretary to Nixon.

Mr. Postal. That's Evelyn Woods?

Mr. Shimon. That's Rosemary Woods. He used to be Bureau Agent here and then he went private, and then he went out to Chicago on the Crime Commission, and he studied to be a priest, nice guy.

Mr. Rhea. When did you first meet Jim O'Connell?

Mr. Shimon. Well, I met Jim O'Connell off and on several times in Mahou's house, probably late '50s, somewhere around there, at parties.

Mr. Rhea. Was it prior to this incident?

Mr. Shimon. It was prior to going to Miami, yeah.

Mr. Rhea. Did you know who Big Jim's employer was?

Mr. Shimon. I knew he was a CIA agent.

Mr. Rhea. Did he ever tell you that?

Mr. Shimon. No, he didn't, but I know he was. My neighbors were CIA agents.

Mr. Rhea. Did they tell you?

Mr. Shimon. Well, we used to talk about who's who, do you know Joe.

Mr. Rhea. Did you meet Mr. O'Connell at places other than Mr. Mahou's house?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah. I met him at the Purple Tree Inn one night, had dinner, went on a drunk, you know.

Mr. Rhea. You mentioned a while ago that Big Jim had talked to the Attorney General about the wiretapping.

Mr. Shimon. No, he didn't tell me that. I said he told me that he used the same excuse or the same background to the Long Committee that he had used with the Justice Department, when they interceded for Bobby before. They interceded the first time and the Long Committee called him, he wanted the same

1 blanket, and Jim had to cover him with the same blanket.

Mr. Rhea. Did Jim O'Connell tell you he had interceded for Maheu in the tap, in the wiretap case?

Mr. Shimon. He did with the Long Committee, he had definitely.

Mr. Rhea. And with regard to the prosecution, did he say anything about that?

Mr. Shimon. Well, he said he did it again, and this is my assumption, if he said again, there was only twice that he interceded for him.

Mr. Postal. Did Big Jim say he had gone to the Department of Justice himself?

Mr. Shimon. No. He was talking about the Long Committee.

Mr. Postal. But, the earlier time.

Mr. Shimon. No, I didn't talk to him about the earlier time.

Mr. Postal. Did he ever tell you that Big Jim went down there or did Bob tell you he went down there.

Mr. Shimon. No. That was Jim's own statement about the Long Committee.

Mr. Postal. Do you know a woman by the name of Judith Campbell or Judy Campbell?

Mr. Shimon. I never heard of her. Never heard of her. No, it doesn't strike a bell at all.

Mr. Postal. Not in connection to John Rosselli?

Mr. Shimon. I met most of Johnny's female friends, and I never met a Judy Campbell.

Mr. Postal. How about a Judy Inmore?

Mr. Shimon. No.

Mr. Postal. Or Yvonne Inmore.

Mr. Shimon. No.

Mr. Postal. How about a woman by the name of Zelma Coolidge?

Mr. Shimon. (Nods in the negative.)

Mr. Postal. Betsy Duncan?

Mr. Shimon. Betsy the singer? Yeah, that's Betsy that's married. A nice girl.

Mr. Postal. You know Betsy?

Mr. Shimon. No.

Mr. Postal. Did you ever know her as Zelma Dewar?

Did you ever meet a girl by the name of Judy Campbell with Sam or --

Mr. Shimon. No, I only met this Polish girl. I don't know her name. I didn't know her name, a very, very pretty girl. She's the one that he gave a ring to, and that's the one that made him an exile. Her name is available; it's in the Police Department. He gave her a ring. She took the ring in to have the stone tightened and the jeweler saw the mark, it was hot. He grabbed her. She said she got it from Sam. They grabbed Sam, and Sam said he bought it from a friend.

1 And there was a whole hassle and he wouldn't tell who the
2 friend was, and Sam just packed up and moved to Mexico. That
3 was one of the reasons. And this is what Attorney General
4 Mitchell used to laugh about, how they bluffed Sam into going
5 into exile.
6 Mr. Rhea. Did you ever hear the name Tony Verona?
7 Mr. Shimon. No.
8 Mr. Rhea. Juan Orta?
9 Mr. Shimon. No.

Mr. Postal. Do you know a Carmine Bellino?

Mr. Shimon. I know of him, yes. I got a head full of him, jeez, real trouble I got into just by knowing the name.

Mr. Postal. For a moment let's focus on that time.

Mr. Dawson. How did you get into trouble?

Did it have anything to do with the questions we're asking you today?

Mr. Shimon. No, this is some of Bob's. He's a former associate of Bob's. He and Bob opened a detective agency and something happened, and when Bob moved out, he turned most of this stuff to the men who were working for him, like Bill Angeloni and Johnny Frank.

Mr. Dawson. Well, you've answered my question. There's no reason to go on any further.

Mr. Postal. What happened to cause a split between Bellino and Maheu?

Mr. Shimon. I don't know, but there's bad blood between them.

Mr. Postal. Did you know Carmine Bellino when he was working in the White House as a special consultant?

Mr. Shimon. I didn't know him at all.

Mr. Postal. Do you know of him?

Mr. Shimon. All I knew the name, that he was formerly associated with Bob, and he's still very friendly with Bill Angeloni, who worked with Bob for many, many years.

Mr. Postal. Were you still on the police department when John Kennedy was President?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, yes.

Mr. Postal. If John Kennedy had any personal problems or any trouble, would you have heard about it?

Mr. Shimon. Well, I'm trying to think.

Mr. Postal. Or anything of a personal nature that you might have heard of?

Mr. Shimon. No, because -- what made me laugh was this Long Committee crowd came up to me and said that I wasn't levelling with them. And when they formed that Committee they didn't know anything about bugging. They came to me, I gave them a complete course, took them around and showed them installations in town, showed them all the Bureau installations so they'd have something to work with. The investigator, Cole, is an old friend of mine.

But, he came to me with, you know, hostility and said, you're holding out on us. And I said what. He says, we know that Mrs. Kennedy hired you to catch the President with some broad and you caught him. We want to know the story.

It was so ridiculous, and I said -- they said, we have this in black and white, now, you can't back off this one. We want you to tell us the story. And I told them in four short words, you go to hell.

Now, if such a thing did happen, and she did hire someone

I don't know if he got caught or not, but a fellow named Richards handled it, and when it was all over Richards took his money and went to Florida and stayed away a couple of years. That was knowledge in the industry.

Mr. Postal. Do you know what the man's full name is?

Mr. Shimon. Well, I don't know whether he's still a private eye or not.

Mr. Postal. Richard's his name?

Mr. Shimon. So Cole has the story that I think the Long Committee has. They came back and apologized and said they were sorry.

Mr. Postal. So some private detective was in fact hired to look into certain indiscretions.

Mr. Shimon. That was the story around town. So I said it had to be Richard because that's the way I heard it, through the grapevine.

Mr. Postal. Could it have been Carmine Bellino that was --

Mr. Shimon. It wasn't Carmine Bellino. This was a private guy, strictly a divorce guy.

Mr. Dawson. May I ask a question?

Mr. Postal. Sure.

Mr. Dawson. To get back to the chronology of the CIA connection with Giancana and Rosselli, and particularly with Rosselli, as well as Mr. Maheu, we have found out the date of the Johansen-Patterson fight that took place in Miami -- there

1 were three fights, it was the last one, it was March 12th,
2 1961. There is not a single piece of evidence to place another
3 wiretap other than the one which I'll represent to you took
4 place the last part of October, 1960. And I'd like to work
5 with you to try to figure out whether you're assuming that the
6 tap did not take place before the fight, or you have somehow
7 placed this incident with the poison being in the possession
8 of Maheu at an improper time.
9 Mr. Shimon. Well, I can -- this surfaced after I had been
10 to the Fontainbleu when Bob told me. Now, this tap could have
11 been months ago. But whenever the Bureau moved in on him is
12 when he told me about it.
13 Now, if they didn't do a thing about it from '60 to '61,
14 I don't know about it, but I assumed because it suddenly
15 surfaced that this was something recent. This was my own
16 assumption, you see.
17 Mr. Dawson. The difficulty with that is, though, you
18 put a lot of weight on the ability of Maheu to blackmail the
19 CIA.

Mr. Shimon. Well, that's the way it was described to --

Mr. Dawson. Using a participation in the passage of the poison.

Mr. Shimon. Well, that's the way it's been discussed by Sam, at great length, and by Johnny, that he got off the hook by telling that phony story. He said that as late as even a year ago; he's still talking about it, how he got away with it. He got away with it again with the Long Committee. And how that stupid tap, and the way the boys handled it, brought all the heat and it resulted in a whole year of contempt for Sam because the Bureau got on him. Johnny went to prison, and both of them trace all of their trouble to the time when the FBI moved in on them as a result of that tap. So if he had kept his mouth shut and hadn't used all that junk, they would have never been involved. That's where I get my impression because I -- I have no interest. Hell, the Bureau wasn't bothering me.

Mr. Dawson. But you're quite convinced in your own mind, in your discussions with Rosselli, Maheu and Giancana, that they had not previously attempted or plotted to assassinate Fidel Castro?

Mr. Shimon. No.

Mr. Dawson. No, you're not convinced?

Mr. Shimon. No, I always thought that was the first attempt.

really, I --

Mr. Dawson. It was an assumption you made.

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, because just to bring it up for the first time, and I hadn't heard anything before that, and I said, this was my first meeting with Sam. I had been with Johnny several times, and with Bob constantly, and no conversation about it. So I figured this must be something new. He had other things going. He had other things going on around the country, he talked about those quite freely. I don't know why the Hell he wouldn't have mentioned this to me.

Mr. Dawson. But that is an assumption you have made rather than something he told you?

Mr. Shimon. That's right.

Mr. Rhea. Subsequent to that, did Johnny ever talk with you about his involvement with Bill Harvey?

Mr. Shimon. No, Johnny was told by Bill Harvey not to talk to me about anything involved with this because I was too close to Maheu.

Mr. Rhea. And Rosselli did not talk to you about anything?

Mr. Shimon. Well, I told Johnny as long as he and Harvey -- I said look, you don't tell me anything. If I happen to ask you something, say no.

Mr. Postal. Were you usually aware, however, if Johnny was in town to see Bill Harvey?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, I always picked him up at the airport,

I made his reservations, had dinner with him, took him to the play. He never came in without my knowing except that time they had him hidden and he was told to stay away.

Mr. Postal. Was the time they had him hidden after they had taken care of the prosecution with the Department of Justice?

Mr. Shimon. I don't know that.

Mr. Postal. Could it have been before?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, no, no, no, because the FBI was questioning Johnny and harrassing him, so he couldn't have been in hiding.

Mr. Postal. This is when? This is before it was taken care of?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah; yeah.

Mr. Postal. And once it was taken care of, he was put in hiding?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah.

Mr. Postal. Why was he put in hiding after the prosecution was taken care of?

Mr. Shimon. I have no idea.

Once Harvey took over and Maheu was out, I had no knowledge, no word, nothing about it.

Mr. Postal. After Johnny came out of hiding -- When was the next time you saw him after that, do you know? How then --

Mr. Shimon. When he came out of hiding, it was a couple

of years, and the next time I saw him was when the FBI was rousting him, and I met him in New York and then came in here and then we went to work because I had to do a lot of work in Boston for him, digging up all his family records and everything. I had the deportation case and then the Friar's case, and then I saw him constantly, every week, every month.

Mr. Postal. So he was working for Harvey for -- at least, he was underground for a while?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, yeah, a long time, a long time.

Mr. Postal. Did you ever talk to Johnny later about what he had done with Harvey during that time?

Mr. Shimon. The next time I saw Johnny we had so many problems with Johnny about to be deported and Johnny to be indicted, and I was running back and forth to Boston and different places. That's our whole interest was solely in getting Johnny out of trouble. The thing -- every time we'd talk about it, I kept saying, Johnny, now look, how about going to the CIA for some help on this thing, and he said, well, all right, anything. And I remember the specific time he came in and he called Harvey from the room at the Madison, and went out to Harvey's house and reported to me the next day that Harvey said, don't worry, you'll never do a day, I'll guarantee you. I understand Harvey really went out and tried to do a job for him.

Mr. Dawson. You said you recall the specific time of that.

Do you recall the date?

Mr. Shimon. I recall the specific conversation when we come in.

Mr. Dawson. Let's try to get a date on that.

Mr. Shimon. The only way would be when he was arrested as an alien, that would be a matter of record.

Mr. Dawson. This would have been after the date of his arrest as an alien?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah.

Mr. Postal. Somewhere around 1966, 1967?

Mr. Shimon. When did he go to prison?

Mr. Postal. I don't know when he went to prison. I believe he --

Mr. Shimon. '65, '66, somewhere around --

Mr. Dawson. This was before he went to prison?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, yeah. He went to prison for the Friar's Club.

Mr. Dawson. The Friar's Club was, I think, in 1968.

Mr. Shimon. Well, first this thing -- the case was pending and we were fighting it all the way, and then they broke the Friar's Club on him.

Mr. Dawson. So it could well have been '66, '67?

Go ahead --

Mr. Shimon. No, that's all right.

Mr. Dawson. Let's go off the record.

(Discussion off the record.

Mr. Rhea. Have you, prior to coming here today, have you talked with anyone aside from Mr. Postal?

Mr. Shimon. Nobody.

Mr. Rhea. You've talked to nobody about the substance of this.

Mr. Shimon. Nobody. I haven't even talked to my wife about it. I didn't want to upset her. I've been in a lot of trouble in my life. She wouldn't even volunteer to drive me.

Mr. Rhea. Have you talked to any newspaper reporters about this?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, no.

Mr. Rhea. Have you given any reports to the newspapers about any of the details of what you've been talking to us about?

Mr. Shimon. You mean since I talked to him?

Mr. Rhea. During the last month.

Mr. Shimon. You're talking about Rudy Max's story about Sam. The Parade thing about Sam.

Mr. Rhea. Yes.

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, they wanted to talk about Sam. They called me up.

Mr. Rhea. Who is Max?

Mr. Shimon. Rudy Max in Potomac Magazine or Parade Magazine, you know, the little thing, the little highlight

about Sam, that's all.

Mr. Rhea. What were the circumstances of that?

Mr. Shimon. It was in the August 24th edition. His boss is a fellow -- he's a hell of a good friend of mine. He called me and said what he wants to know something about Sam. We know he's been seeing you, and Jack Anderson filled him in on this. So I gave him a few little bits about it. Now, what the gist of the whole thing was, Sam was really--he wanted to know how bad Sam was. The real story was they wanted to know if I thought CIA had killed Sam. And I said, how did you even come to think that that would be so. And he said, because somebody asked Colby the question about Sam's death and Colby said we didn't have a thing to do with it, which is a silly answer, and that's what brought it about.

Well, if I can find the article, I'll mail it to you.

Mr. Rhea. Well, I have read the article. I was just curious.

Mr. Postal. Did you talk to anybody about the events that transpired in Miami when you were down there with Mahou and Rosselli and Sam?

Mr. Shimon. No. We just talked about Sam. They only wanted to know Sam, and Sam's background and Sam this. The Watergate Committee went all over it with me, though.

Mr. Postal. All over what?

Mr. Shimon. The fellows who interviewed me, and off

the record we kicked it around. They wanted a background on Mahou.

(A brief recess was taken.)

Mr. Postal. I'd like you, if you know a man by the name of A. J. Woolston-Smith.

Mr. Shimon. You mean up in New York City?

Mr. Postal. Uh-huh.

Mr. Shimon. He has an agency, Confidential Investigations? Oh, yes, my daughter worked there.

Mr. Postal. Can you tell us about that operation?

Mr. Shimon. Well, it all started years ago. Walter Clancy was a New York detective when I was a young detective. They used to loan me to other jurisdictions because I was supposed to be an expert in certain fields, and one year they loaned me to the State of Florida. I was a Miami City Detective, Deputy Sheriff of Dade County and State Investigator for the race tracks. Walter Clancy was also selected and Jack Warren of Chicago. We were the trio.

Now, Walter's time, his 20 years were up in the Department. He wanted to open an agency and called me about assistance, advice and what to do, and we, together, drew up what he put together, an excellent agency, made some money with it. He had a retired policewoman. They got good publicity and good cases. In later years he kept on hiring different fellows from different countries. And Walter dropped dead, and a fellow

named Joe, one of his employees, bought the business out. And I was up there and I saw Smith, I think, the second time.

Smith is supposed to be a foreign agent. He puts on a lot of phoney stories. Now, my daughter was working for an art company, purchasing. She's quite an artist, and she was doing the purchasing, and these people had security on their business, and Smith happened to run into her, and he said is your Dad the inspector and she said yes, and from then on nothing would do but he'll have to go to work for them. And she was excited enough to think that it might be good.

And then they were use -- and so she went to work for them, and they were using her to get information that I might have about a lot of things, and they did really try to work the Watergate on a lot of angles, and they put out a lot of bad stories on the Watergate as being authentic. He's wrong.

I just told my daughter, out, get out of there.

Mr. Postal. What stories was he wrong about, to your knowledge?

Mr. Shimon. He was planting stories about McCord. They planted -- oh, I forget, offhand -- and there was another fellow that used to do Bobby Kennedy's political work up in New York. He was feeding him some poison, I forget his name. I know I did a job for him in Detroit.

But he is supposed to be -- and I got this from another source -- he's supposed to be an English agent of some kind.

He's on somebody's payroll because he's not making the money in the business, and he says he has a rich wife. That's neither here nor there. But everybody I talked to, my contacts in the field say he's strictly poison, what is your daughter doing there, including some FBI guys that had to go in there and ask a question about something. They said, whoa.

So I just told her to get out of there, and she did.

Mr. Postal. They smelled a rat as soon as they walked into the place?

Mr. Shimon. I think they were doing a background on him. I don't know. And when they saw my daughter in there, they didn't think that she should be there. But they were working her. I could tell by the things that she would call me and ask me.

Mr. Postal. Things like what?

Mr. Shimon. Not pertaining to government stuff. Leads he wanted people, backgrounds on somebody, freebie stuff.

There was something else I was trying to think. One of the partners skipped with all of the money.

Mr. Postal. Do you know what his name was?

Mr. Shimon. There was another partner with Wilson, and he skipped and signed a lot of bad paper, and he went out and Smith couldn't prosecute him. Actually, the guy said go ahead. Forget it. There's nothing we can do about it.

Mr. Postal. To your knowledge does Bob Maheu have any connection to Smith?

Mr. Shimon. He didn't when I knew him.

Mr. Postal. What about Bollino?

Mr. Shimon. I don't know about Bollino. No, I know Bob wouldn't have any connection to Smith because a lot of things Bob wanted from time to time in New York I would have done through Walter Clancy and Walter Clancy's successor, so he never got a chance to meet Smith, and I did most of it on the phone.

And my daughter was working there, I might fly up and catch her for lunch, you know.

Mr. Postal. Do you know a guy named Al Lonnick? Palm Springs?

Mr. Shimon. No, but the name is familiar. I might have heard it. Betsy lives there, Johnny spends a lot of time there when he's on the West Coast, and he knows a lot of people in Palm Springs. He might have mentioned Lennick to me. The name is so odd I think it strikes a bell, that's all.

Mr. Postal. Tell me something, if Johnny and Sam were going to communicate, is it possible that they would use a cutout, somebody as an intermediary when they would talk to each other?

Mr. Shimon. Johnny and Sam haven't seen or talked to each other for ten years.

Mr. Postal. How about back when?

Mr. Shimon. Way back, that would be done directly on the phone, you know, what the hell is the organization.

Vegas, the Strip. Hell, anybody could have been.

Mr. Postal. Did they ever use women, to the best of your knowledge, to act as a telephone conduit?

Mr. Shimon. I'll let you in on a little secret on those boys. They don't trust women from here to here.

Mr. Postal. Do they ever use them?

Mr. Shimon. No, no.

Mr. Postal. What about Sinatra?

Mr. Shimon. He should be hustling pool. This is an awful sad shit, jeez. I mean, this is disappointing to read about him and then suddenly get in a room with the bum and watch him and listen to him, and then look what he did at the Cal Neva. Jeez, that's one weekend I missed. I'm glad I missed that weekend.

Mr. Postal. This was --

Mr. Shimon. You know, when he was --

Mr. Postal. Sam was there.

Mr. Shimon. What the hell, what brought the heat on was what he was doing, putting on a show, shoving a bottle up some gal's ass with an audience. Come on, this is a bad guy. Rotten. Even Sam, and yet, it's a funny thing, he is so anxious to be identified with big shots and mobsters, I think this comes as a lack of security. He likes to be identified with some guy. I'll get the mob after you. This is what he said to the head of the racing commission, you know, when they were

Samn .)

going to take his license away, I'll get the mob after you.

When we went to dinner the night of our trip to Miami, Sam and Johnny and I, you know, we arrived early at Maximes, so in came Frankie with all his gang, walked up to Sam, oh, I finally got you. You've got to hear this. So, anyway he walked up and hello, hello, and suddenly Sam, purposely, and changed his ring finger that night. Johnny wanted to wear his ring, and he said, go ahead, because Johnny was going to meet a girl later, some doctor's wife. So Sam said, I'll put on that ring that Goddamn Sinatra gave me.
worn it. So he puts it on and Sinatra said, so you finally wear the ring. He said, I've been checking up on you. So you finally put it on. Just like a little girl, and I couldn't help but, hey, are you two queer for each other? And I thought Sam would drop dead. He got to laughing. He walked away. He said, he's that crazy Guinea son of a bitch, he gave me a ring. He gives everybody a ring, you know, he loves them, falls in love with them. You know, he said, look out for him. He says, look out, don't open your mouth. This guy got Lucky Luciano up. See, Lucky sneaked back into Cuba, you know. Lucky was deported, sneaked back, was working out of Cuba.

Somebody told him, Lucky, you know, he wanted to go down and meet Lucky. So he brought Lucky a present, a solid gold case, to Lucky with love from Frankie or something. Then he

showed it to everybody around New York and said I'm going to meet Lucky, you know, the big mouth. So the word went, you know, they went right with him. He sort of walked right in Lucky's room and gave him the case and the cops walked right into the room right after him and busted him.

So after that, you know, so Sam said look out for this guy, but anytime he got into trouble he always would be flaunting my friend Sam, and he had a lot of people intimidated that thought that, you know, Sam was his big boy.

Mr. Postal. Well, isn't it a fact that Sinatra and Sam had business interests together?

Mr. Shimon. Well, not only Sam. I think everybody that had any money invested in the so-called Syndicate all financed Sinatra to put him on his feet. Sure, there's no question about that because he was stone broke. Suddenly he got in the recording business and they bought his way back into the movies, as you know. They bought him the parts. And in fact, you know, that's why, for instance, why Johnny went away. You know, he was working with the unions, with Bielolf. Those unions were running the show. They were telling the movie producers what to do and how to do it.

Mr. Postal. The unions were.

Mr. Shimon. Yeah. Come on.

Mr. Postal. Were the mobs running the unions? Were they financing these unions or were the unions financing the mob?

Mr. Shimon. The unions had a lot of mob members. Johnny was in one of the unions. He was an enforcer. You know, he went to prison. Bieloff went to prison first. They let him off, Bieloff squealed and the other seven went to prison. That was it.

Mr. Postal. What about Sam. Did he have any ties to Hoffa?

Mr. Shimon. No, no. I would have known that because, see, before Hoffa went to prison I saw a lot of Jimmy. In fact, I did some work for Jimmy's lawyers. In fact, I did some stuff for Jimmy.

Mr. Postal. What about Moe Dalitz? Do you know him?

Mr. Shimon. Moe, I met Moe, yeah.

Mr. Postal. He was a friend of Sam's, wasn't he?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, formerly a friend of Sam's.

Mr. Postal. They had a break?

Mr. Shimon. Sam broke with all of them. Sam broke with all of them. When Sam cut out for Mexico, he cut out all of the things. See, there was a great deal of --

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Shimon. I had a long talk with Sam. You know, he had some problems with his estate. You know, he had a big estate, you know, and he had all kinds of problems with the employees, and he said look, why don't you come on down and spend a few weeks, help me straighten up, give me some secur...

things, you know. I've got to get this thing organized down there. It isn't bad but it's getting out of hand. And I said, well, why don't you give it up and go back to Chicago, and he said, I'm all through with all of that, Joe. This has been over a year ago. He said, I don't even want to see Chicago again. And the only reason he went back to Chicago is they kidnapped him and brought him back, took him out of his bed, put him on a pair of pants, took him across the border and hit him with a subpoena, because he called me and told me about it.

Mr. Postal. Well, what about the old days? Bobby Kennedy came in, two people he went after were Sam and Jimmy Hoffa.

Mr. Shimon. Well, he went after Sam because Sam was supposed to be the Godfather of the whole deal, and Sinatra was identified so closely with Sam at the time.

Mr. Postal. Well, why would he go after Sam if Sinatra was close to him?

Mr. Shimon. When you get to Sam you get to Sinatra, you get the whole bunch.

Mr. Postal. Well did Bobby want to get to Sinatra?

Mr. Shimon. Well, let's go off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Postal. I think we should put this on the record.

Mr. Shimon. Bobby Kennedy's sister, you know, is married to Peter Lawford. She is a swinger. She is alleged to sleep

around a lot of guys. Peter, of course, is identified as a double-gaited guy, so it didn't make any difference anyway. They've separated now.

Frankie cultivated her and was sleeping around with her, had a perfect in, and during the campaign, if you remember, the Kennedy campaign, he was -- here was Sinatra working in all directions, working for the Kennedys. The idea was once Kennedy won, Sinatra was going to be able to take care of all of the boys. And this was his full control, sleeping with the daughter, sleeping with his sister, stay in there.

And the Kennedys accepted Frankie. They had him up there with him and they were inviting him to the White House, and oh boy, what a great fellow. But the FBI had a lot of phones tapped. Vegas, Chicago, and pretty soon they're hearing conversations between Frankie and Sam about, hey, when are you going to get something done for the boys, you know. And then they're talking about the sister, and in not nice terms, you know, I've got to sleep with this goddamn bitch until I get something going.

These tapes were played back to Bobby and Bobby went, wow, and overnight you saw Sinatra out. You remember, and no more White House, nothing.

Mr. Postal. Well that was late, that was like March of '62.

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, but he didn't get to see those tapes

until then. Bobby was Attorney General when he finally got to hearing some of these tapes and seeing transcripts. However, he did get the information, and all of a sudden he shut Sinatra off.

Mr. Postal. Well --

Mr. Shimon. Well, they found out that Sam, well, not Sam alone -- Sam at that time was the top man. They were going to run the big show and have full control with the blessing of the Attorney General. That's what they were shooting for.

Mr. Postal. This was Sam in Chicago.

Mr. Shimon. Sam, Moe, and everybody involved. And all of the fellows that had an interest in the west.

Mr. Postal. Do you think Hoffa was into this?

Mr. Shimon. Hoffa wasn't into that. Hoffa wasn't into that circle. Hoffa got in into the other circle that got into the Caesar's Palace. Now, that's another crowd entirely.

Now, those, what the hell are the names of the people that are the suspects in the Hoffa case? I did a job for them, Giacalonis. The Giacalonis had no, nothing to do with Sam.

Mr. Postal. Well, almost as soon as Bobby came in, the records indicate that Bobby Kennedy went after Sam.

Mr. Shimon. That is as soon as he found out what was going on over these telephone wires.

Mr. Postal. So, in other words, it must have been almost

immediately upon becoming Attorney General.

Mr. Shimon. Somebody had to inform him that he was being -- that hey were using his family and his sister in order -- and Sinatra was carrying, you know, he was going to run the whole show because he's got the sister in the bag.

Mr. Postal. Well, why would they hold on to Sinatra once they found out about the stuff that they were saying on the telephone?

Mr. Shimon. Sinatra had all the money in his name.

Mr. Postal. Well, I understand that, but they certainly had enough money that they could have supported the sister. Why would Bobby Kennedy keep his hands off Sinatra?

Mr. Shimon. He can't get anything out of him. Who's ever talked on Sinatra?

Mr. Postal. They still had him as a friend.

Mr. Shimon. They did not. They shut him off and didn't even let him in the White House anymore.

Mr. Postal. But that was later.

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, but they had to do it gradually.

Mr. Postal. Could it have been something else that prevented them from shutting Sinatra off until later?

Mr. Shimon. It could have been, but the story I got is the way I'm telling it to you. This is the way I got it, and this was -- again the story was that Sinatra and his big mouth.

Mr. Postal. Okay. We have Sinatra with a big mouth, and we've got him on the phone taps or the bugs, and he's saying things about Bobby Kennedy's sister, and you know, maybe Bobby comes in, and he already knows about Sam obviously. Sam's a big guy. Bobby's going to go after the rackets.

Mr. Shimon. And he's supposed to cool Bobby out.

Mr. Postal. Sinatra?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah.

Mr. Postal. And so Bobby hears that on the telephone taps that Sinatra is talking to the mobs saying I'm going to cool Bobby Kennedy out?

Mr. Shimon. He says, I'm in, I'm in, he says, I've got a sister, I've got the family.

Oh, while we were at the Fontainbleu, Sinatra's time is up, you know, his number of appearances, and he calls down and says hey, when are we going to get together, to Sam, and Sam says, well, we're kind of busy. And he says, you know, I'm due at the White House tomorrow morning and I want to be with you. And Sam says, well, it's impossible because we've got some things we've got to do.

So Sam said, oh, to hell with the White House, I can be there anytime. I'll wait for you. That's how sure he was of himself.

Mr. Postal. Sam said this?

Mr. Shimon. No, no, Frank said this.

Mr. Postal. All right, now, this is now in March 1961.

Mr. Shimon. Yes.

Mr. Postal. Okay.

Mr. Shimon. He was supposed to be there that morning, so he automatically says okay, he'll cancel it and he can go there anytime, he'll wait to see Sam.

Mr. Postal. Okay. So either Bobby Kennedy either hasn't had the logs or read the logs yet or there is another reason.

Mr. Shimon. At that time he still is welcome in the White House.

Mr. Postal. Right. And if our information is correct, he was welcome in the White House for another year.

Mr. Shimon. Yes.

Mr. Postal. About that time the following year was when they made the break.

Mr. Shimon. It was less than a year. They were already cooling him out. They didn't want a sudden break. You see, keep in mind, it took them -- now, for instance Joe Dalitz's wire was covered for a year, so was Rudy's at the Desert Inn. Keep in mind now, a long time before Bobby was in office, a long time before Mr. Hoover let him see anything, remember that.

Mr. Postal. Is that right?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, come on.

Mr. Postal. Well, really.

Mr. Shimon. Well, there was a terrible feeling between

Kennedy and Hoover.

Mr. Postal. From the start?

Mr. Shimon. From the beginning. Bobby did not like Hoover and didn't want him in there, long before he even took office, and they were that far apart, and I can see where Hoover had a hell of a lot of stuff and didn't give it to him. If he had given it to him from the beginning -- I think he just let it build up, build up, and finally walked in and threw it at him to embarrass him.

That's the kind of guy Hoover was, you know. You've got to look in and make a little study of the rivalry, the hostility between Hoover and Kennedy was --

Mr. Postal. Well, I want to develop this a little bit. After all, if we talk to people at Justice, we get one side, if we talk to people at the Bureau, we get the other side.

Mr. Shimon. Well, this is the problem and you don't get it until you talk to people after they leave the Bureau. That's the trouble. You're talking to a guy at CIA. Some guys will talk to you about the CIA, some guys will not talk to you about CIA regardless.

Well, that's what you get. But I know this, I know it and I heard it -- Hoover hated Bobby Kennedy and Bobby Kennedy hated Hoover, really hated Hoover.

Mr. Postal. Did you ever hear that Hoover kept information from Bobby?

Mr. Shimon. Oh, he didn't tell Bobby anything unless Bobby solicited it.

Mr. Postal. So then let's say, for example, that in October of 1962 Sam made certain statements that Hoover knew about, say Sam had been talking about pills and Castro, or perhaps Hoover knew the CIA was or was not involved in the wiretap. Would he have told Kennedy?

Mr. Shimon. Geez, I don't know.

Mr. Postal. Is it possible Hoover could have tried to

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1 bootstrap Bobby?

2 Mr. Shimon. I think Hoover would have done anything to

3 embarrass the CIA because there was a hostility there too.

4 Hoover would have moved, he would have moved heaven and earth

5 to embarrass CIA if Kennedy would permit it.

6 Mr. Postal. Which would he rather get, CIA or Kennedy?

7 Mr. Shimon. Well, you see, he couldn't publicly go

8 out after CIA unless Kennedy agreed to it. You know that.

9 After all, Kennedy was still boss. So he was caught between

10 two people he hated. It's that simple.

11 Mr. Postal. So you never heard of anything else that

12 either Sinatra or the mob had on Kennedy?

13 Mr. Shimon. Other than it was just a girl thing. You

14 know, going out with his sister, and of course the Kennedys

15 being wined and dined even before Jack was the President

16 by Sinatra and his gang, and of course they were furnished

17 dates. But what the hell, that's nothing. We don't know what

18 they did with the dates, dinner, dancing, what else?

19 Mr. Postal. Well, I'm not terribly interested in what

20 they were doing in their social lives. I'm more concerned in

21 whether you ever heard that they used that?

22 Mr. Shimon. No, they didn't get a chance to use it.

23 [illegible] of that. I'm sure they never got a chance to use it

24 [illegible] because the fact is Kennedy put him out [illegible]

25 that put him out, he knew put Sinatra, you know, [illegible]

ga 3

1 go near Sinatra.

2 Mr. Postal. Well, if we place the time when Sinatra

3 was cut out of the Kennedy White House as March of 1962, and

4 Kennedy came in, of course, January, 1961, so it's about a

5 year and three or four months, and if we say, for example,

6 that Sinatra was still in with the White House up until say

7 the summer of '61 --

8 Mr. Shimon. He must have been because he was doing the

9 White House in March of '61.

10 Mr. Postal. Okay, so for months after that he was

11 still tight, we'll say.

12 Mr. Shimon. Well, I think what you're getting at is

13 they were making the log, making the taps, putting together

14 one hell of a big story.

15 Mr. Postal. This is the Bureau?

16 Mr. Shimon. Sure. They had -- they had that place

17 wired like a spider web.

18 Mr. Postal. To your knowledge did the Bureau ever

19 use women?

20 Mr. Shimon. I don't know why they wouldn't. Everybody

21 used women.

22 Mr. Postal. So is it conceivable that Hoover would have

23 used women to his own political advantage?

24 Mr. Shimon. No, not Hoover personally.

25 Mr. Postal. I'm not saying Hoover personally.

Mr. Shimon. I think he would have.

Mr. Postal. Did you ever hear about any incidents?

Mr. Shimon. No, but inferences, rumors, you know, like every big guy you hear a lot of stories, and what the hell, if you're not interested in them, you don't care. You know, in every walk of life and everything you can sit around and hear a lot of things, as you know, and you have to retain some of them, forget some of them, justify some of them, and justify why they are being told, you know. The older you get, the more you hear, the more you discount, particularly about big people, prominent people, and people that do make mistakes and people that do make a lot of [illegible], there's no question Hoover made enemies, no question about it.

Mr. Postal. I am just trying to understand if Hoover had something on the Kennedys, how would he use it?

Mr. Shimon. He couldn't very well use it while Jack was President. He didn't have that kind of nuts.

See, Jack was a fearless guy, you know. He was not this [illegible].

Mr. Postal. In that sight?

Mr. Shimon. Yeah, that was his reputation.

Mr. Postal. You usually hear about Teddy being the fearless one.

Mr. Shimon. [illegible] but Jack was the all-out, powerful guy that was didn't [illegible]

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play with because when he pulled the string on you, it was tight. Bobby would threaten you. Jack wouldn't threaten you. Jack would do it to you. There's the difference.

You know, I came originally out of Massachusetts, all my friends, my brother-in-law, you know, they know these people like the chief of police in Hyannisport, remember Jack -- what's his name -- the state policeman was the old man's bodyguard. I used to go to Hyannisport and spend all the weekends and hear all the gossip about what's going on in the Kennedy household. I could have told you every morning what went on the night before.

This is how I got to know the different characters as you talk about them. Jack was a strong, deep, silent guy, really moreso than people realize. Bobby, sure Bobby would holler, scream, threaten you, kick you, anything. You know, Jack wouldn't do that. He'd just pull that string and you're through. And Teddy, of course, I don't know. I don't go up there anymore. I don't hear anymore. I don't go to Swampscot. I don't go to Hyannisport.

I guess I could.

Mr. Postal. Off the record.

(Discussion off the record.)

Mr. Postal. I would like to thank you for coming down.

Mr. Shimon. Well, I know your job. I've worked on a lot of jobs as an investigator, and when you've got a job to

do you've got to talk to people, and I know how difficult it is. I never want to make it hard for a guy to accomplish what he has to do.

I just want you to understand that. I always believe in helping the other guy do his job because a lot of people can do it to me.

Mr. Postal. Well, you've been very cooperative and we really appreciate it.

Mr.Shimon. Well, the only thing -- I'm sorry, it's too bad Sam's dead. That's all. That shaken me up. Sam had something to tell me, but they got him before he could tell me.

Mr. Postal. Perhaps you might want to explain that. I know you told me that Sam called you shortly before he died.

Mr. Shimon. He called me about four or five weeks before he was killed and I was on my way out of the country the next morning. He was always laughing. He always starts his conversation with a laugh and a joke. He says, hey, what is you doing? You know, you get --

And I said, well, in fact, I'm leaving tomorrow morning and he said, are you going to be available or are you going to be tied up? Can you get loose at any time?

I said, Sam, I can get loose at any time you call me, as you know, or you get loose and come here. You know, you

have more ways of getting around than I have, and you know I have plenty of space. I can always take care of you in the country.

And he says, I know. What's the number there up in the country? Give it to me again. He said, stay loose, we'll get together. I have something to talk to you about.

Mr. Postal. Did he sound urgent?

Mr. Shimon. No, very -- you know, well, how's Jeannie, what's going on, what do you hear from Johnny? See, he hasn't seen or talked to Johnny for ten years himself, and he said, what's happening to Johnny's case, the deportation [illegible] I said, I don't know. Nothing's final [illegible] He said, okay, we'll get together. I'll call you.

Of course, the next time I saw him his picture was on television, he was dead. But if he were around he would call to you now, today. He would. It's too bad. Just as I imagine Johnny will talk to you, but for years he wouldn't talk to anybody. The race is over.

Mr. Postal. Okay. Thank you.

(Thereupon, at 5:24 o'clock p.m., the hearing in the above-mentioned matter was concluded.)